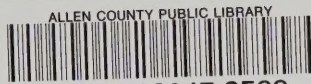








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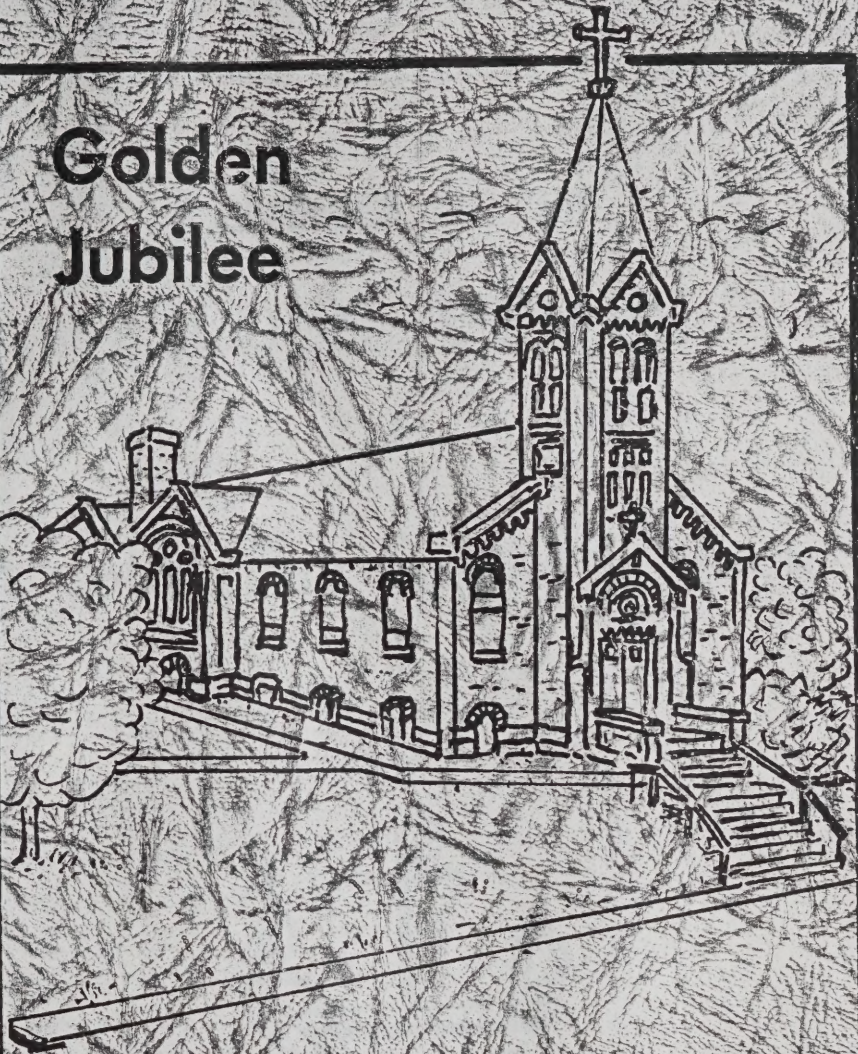
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Souvenir [sic] of the  
golden jubilee of St. John  
the Baptist Church





**Golden  
Jubilee**



**Saint John's Church  
Beach,  
North Dakota**

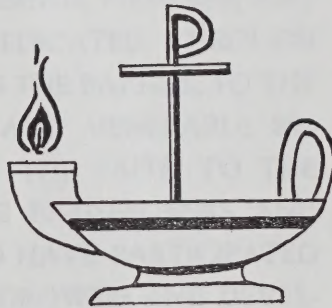
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SOUVENIER OF THE  
GOLDEN JUBILEE  
of  
St. John The Baptist Church



Beach, North Dakota

1909

1959

SOUVENIR OF THE  
GOLDEN JUBILEE

of

St. John The Baptist Church



March, North Dakota

1907

1907

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## DEDICATION

IN COMMEMORATING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH OF BEACH, NORTH DAKOTA, THIS TESTIMONIAL OF GOD'S CARE AND BLESSINGS, MEMOIRS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS, IS DEDICATED THROUGH OUR PATRON, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, TO THE MISSIONARY PRIESTS AND VENERABLE SISTERS WHO BROUGHT THE FAITH TO THE REGION; TO ALL THE PARISHIONERS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ANY WAY TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARISH FOR GOD'S HONOR AND GLORY.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In writing this book we are deeply indebted to Ray W. Lingk for his historical research. We have been able at all times to turn to him and to use his notes and material collected through many years. Without his generous help this history would not have been written. Special words of gratitude are due the staff of the committees who were helpful with Mr. Lingk's research and who collaborated with him in determining the subject matter covered by this book.

This writing has been designed as a memorial for laymen, the town, and the Church in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of 1959.

Sincere appreciation is extended to those who have kindly given permission to use photos and pictures, and to those who have been generous with their suggestions and assistance in preparing this book. Many of the old timers of this vicinity have rendered invaluable aid. It is not possible to mention all who have assisted and their helpfulness cannot be fully expressed.

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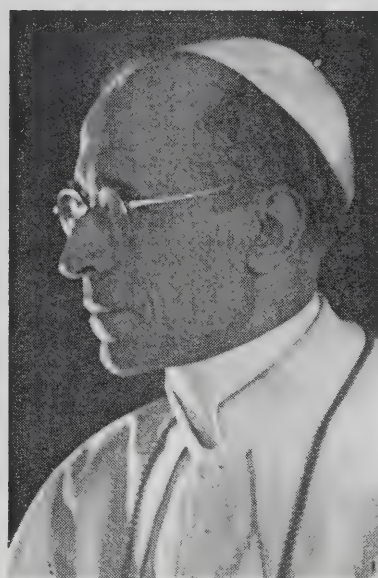
**POPE PIUS X**  
1903 — 1914



**POPE BENEDICT XV**  
1914 — 1922



**POPE PIUS XI**  
1922 — 1939



**POPE PIUS XII**  
1939 — 1958







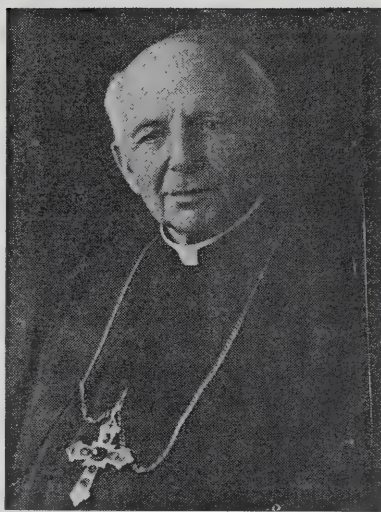
HIS HOLINESS, POPE JOHN XXIII, VICAR OF CHRIST  
Our Present Pope







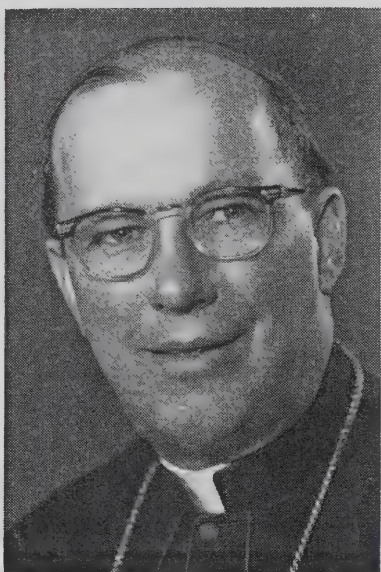
**BISHOP JOHN SHANLEY**  
Fargo — 1889\*



**BISHOP VINCENT WEHRLE**  
Bismarck — 1910\*



**BISHOP VINCENT J. RYAN**  
Bismarck — 1940\*



**BISHOP LAMBERT A. HOCH**  
Bismarck — 1952\*

\* Consecrated







BISHOP HILARY B. HACKER  
Present Bishop of Bismarck — 1957\*





# HISTORY OF St. John The Baptist Church

The first record of a Catholic priest passing through our present Golden Valley County was made note of in special dispatches to the New York Herald and also in a letter of General George Custer to his wife at Fort Lincoln. The priest, Father Valentine Sommereisen, followed the trail made by the Stanley, Custer, Railroad Survey Expedition of 1873. He no doubt passed through the townsite of Beach and possibly very close to where St. John's Church now stands. Then, Abbot Martin Marty, OSB, came to the Dakota Territory as the Vicar Apostolic in the 1870's and 80's. He sent missionaries into the western regions and many missions are credited to him. After the railroad was completed in 1883, an occasional priest would visit the stations along the railroad to minister to any Catholics in the region.

Holy Mass was being said in small halls and section houses by Father Patrick Cassidy who resided in Mandan. His parish covered 19,543 square miles. Father Martin Schmitt, OSB, assisted by Father Paul, OSB, succeeded Father Cassidy. Father Martin, as he was known, acquired some property from the railroad and constructed a small chapel at Dickinson. In 1887 Father Ambrose Lethert, OSB, became the first resident priest in Dickinson and among many others had Medora and Sentinel Butte as missions.

In 1889 the Dakota Territory was divided into the states of North and South Dakota. Vicar Apostolic Martin Marty was elevated to be the first Bishop of the diocese of South Dakota. At this same time the Church established a diocese of

North Dakota with Father John Shanley as its first Bishop. The See was later changed to Fargo. It was Bishop Shanley who dedicated the first St. John the Baptist Church in Beach.

The area of St. John's Parish, in the extreme western part of North Dakota, was opened to homestead claims in 1902. There were many nationalities and religious affiliations settling on these claims. Through the action of the German Catholic Golden Valley Land Company with W. H. Hunk as agent at Burkey, North Dakota, the southern part of our valley was largely settled by German and Polish from Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Historical Record of the diocese gives the Catholic population as Irish, German, Polish, and a few Bohemians.

When Father John Dignam took charge of St. Patrick's Church in Dickinson, August 26, 1903, his parish extended as far west as the Montana-Dakota State line. St. John's Church was incorporated September 5, 1906 and was dedicated by Bishop Shanley, August 26, 1906. It was built on the northeast corner of Block 5 on Lots 11 and 12. The original townsite and the property was transferred from Bishop Shanley to St. John's Church, December 26, 1906. Father Dignam held services in Beach as early as 1904 and served the mission until April 1908; however, no records were kept at the time.

It is interesting to note a few newspaper clippings and comments of the old timers who were then in the parish . . . .

(from the Billings County Republican, August 3, 1905 . . . . .)





"Catholic Services were held at Henry Shulterbein's last Wednesday. After Mass, there was a meeting to decide upon building two churches, one in Beach and the other at Wm. Hunk's store, Burkey. E. E. Egan and H. Shuterbein were elected Trustees of the parish . . . Lone Tree News."

(August 10, 1905 . .) . . . "They have begun to haul stone for the Catholic Church . . Beach News."

The foundation was completed that fall but it was too late to start building the Church.

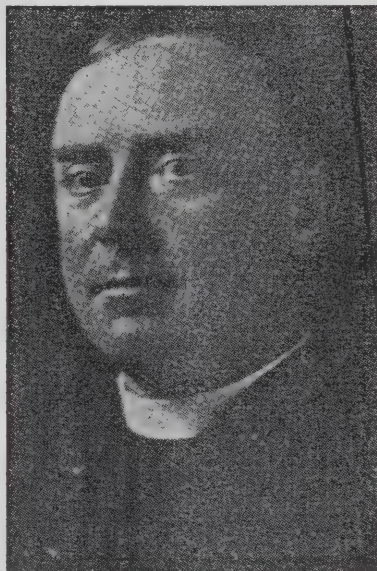
(September 6, 1906 . .) . . . "Two new Catholic Churches, the one at Beach and the one at Burkey were dedicated to the honor and service of God, by Rt. Rev. John Shanley, D. D., Bishop of Fargo, on Sunday, August 26, 1906. Mass was also celebrated at both places and after the Services a number of parishioners received the Sacrament of Confirmation . . ."

Henry Saunders, now of Oakland, California, writes: . . . "As I remember it, the first married families were: The Vincent Wicka's, Albert Szudera, Matt McNeice, John Holland, Tom Burns, John Cusick and M. C. McCarthy. Joe Musil, John W. McNeice, Simon Uhlencott, Miss Joan McCarthy, Miss Agnes McCarthy, and myself were single at that time. We had services on the second floor of the Beach Mercantile Co. Store. I do not remember of ever keeping any books. Things were done in a kind of hap-hazard way." . . .

Mr. Saunders gives John W. McNeice and himself as the first Trustees.

Mrs. Vincent Wicka, now of Los Angeles, California, writes: . . . "In the fall of 1905, Mr. Wicka, Matt Kiedrowski, and Matt McNeice hauled the rock from which the church foundation was laid. Mr. Holland, a neighbor who was a stone mason, laid the foundation with the help of the three mentioned above. On Thanksgiving Day, Mrs. Kiedrowski and I held an oyster supper and dance. The proceeds totaling \$37 paid for Mr. Holland's labor and the materials needed. The Church

was built from new materials and we held services in the framework until it was completed. The pews were old ones that Fr. Dignam acquired from an unknown source. There were disputes about



**FATHER JOHN DIGNAM**

naming the Church. It was finally decided to name it after Father Dignam, our first pastor. At that time the Bismarck diocese was not in existence."

Wm. Szudera, now of Beach and Billings, Montana, states: . . . "I don't remember that we had any regular carpenter to build the Church. We just all pitched in and worked at it until it was done."

Chas. Lingk, now of Bismarck, North Dakota, gives the following information . . . "Oscar Lingk, one time related the following: "When we were working making the cross for the Church, it looked much larger than it did later when upon the steeple." He also told that Simon Ohlencott had advanced the money for the lumber and that as soon as they had paid this back they had to raise money for the priest's house or rectory. By 1910 the old Church we becoming too small and next the drive was on to build a new Church." . . .



The Rev. Father A. J. Vanden Heuvel became the first resident pastor in April 1908. Because he served several missions, Mass was said in Beach on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. There was no rectory at that time. An item from the Beach Advance, May 22, 1908 read: . . . "At a meeting held last Sunday at St. John's Church, nearly \$1,200.00 was subscribed for the building of a priest's residence at Beach."

On Sunday, June 21, 1908, after services the parishioners elected from among themselves, two men to act as lay directors and as secretary and treasurer to the corporation. Parishioners were asked to furnish in cash or bankable notes the amount by them subscribed for the building of the parish house. An agreement was . . .

"entered into the 29th of June, 1908 between St. John's Church of Beach . . . for (Lot 7, Block 5, original townsite) . . . house to be completed as specified by August 1, 1908 . . . And, . . . "November 9, 1908. The St. John's Church, a corporation of Beach, Billings County, North Dakota . . . and Michael Goetz of Norwalk, Monroe County, Wisconsin . . . \$700 . . . Lot 7, Block 5, original part of town of Beach, including all buildings thereon known as the Catholic Parish of Beach. One promissory note due three years from date with interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum, payable annually . . ."

In August 1909 Father A. J. Vanden Heuvel was replaced by Father Karl Hierylmeier who remained here about one year. He had many missions to serve, so Mass in Beach was not said any more frequent than in 1908. However, he held some of the first catchism classes remembered. Only a few of the children in this newly established parish had ever attended any religious instruction. It was seldom that any Sisters could be obtained to instruct the

children in those early days, so the task of instructing the children in religion was a difficult one.

In July of 1910 Father Otto Wolpers became Pastor. He is remembered by many of the older parishioners, many of whom were in his first communion and confirmation



**FATHER OTTO WOLPERS**

classes. Father Wolpers held catechism classes in both English and German and is credited with the building of the new Church.

An agreement was entered into . . .

"between St. John's Church and J. R. Smith for the consideration of \$1000.00 conveying the title to St. John's Church to Lots 5 and 6 in Block 5, original townsite . . . January 16, 1911 . . ."

During the remainder of 1911 and most of 1912, plans were laid for the new church.

The land for the cemetery was bought from Harry Hunter. Most of the people who passed away be-





fore this time were shipped back to their former homes.

The work of excavating for the basement and foundation of the new and present Church began in August of 1913. The brick used in the Church was of three types and was obtained from the North Dakota Pressed Brick Company, Dickinson, North Dakota. E. J. Donohue of St. Paul was engaged as the architect and the contract was let to P. O. Nasvik of St. Paul, who hired some local labor.

The laying of the cornerstone occurred on September 26, 1913 with three Masses being said in the old Church — Father Wolpers, 7 a.m., Bishop Wehrle, 8 a.m., and Rev. Father Bernard of Richardton celebrating High Mass at 10 a.m. In the afternoon the congregation gathered at the old Church and formed a procession headed by Martin Mc-

Carthy, bearing the Cross, followed by the Altar boys, children, women, men, Clergy, and Knights of Columbus. The procession led to the new building where Bishop Wehrle blessed the cornerstone and gave the address in English. Then an address in the Polish language was given by Rev. Father Cieslewicz of Wibaux. The histories to that date of both of the Catholic Church and the town of Beach were placed in the cornerstone. Mrs. Nick Weinacht directed the choir with Anna Green as the organist at the ceremony.

By December 12, 1913 the Church was completely enclosed with the exception of the belfry and the steeple which were not yet erected.

Much work and planning went into the new Church. Stained glass windows with ecclesiastical subjects were donated by the following:



OLD CHURCH



NEW CHURCH





## WINDOW

St. Paul	Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. McCaskey
The Blessed Virgin	Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Egan
St. Columkill	In Memory of Mr. James Carroll
Guardian Angel	M. W. and C. J. Powers Families
Crucifixion	Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Bartley
Agony in the Garden	In Memory of Mr. Martin Laughlan
Christ's Nativity	John Kerrigan, Sr.
St. Stanislaus	Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Wicka
St. Boniface	Mr. and Mrs. John Harth
St. Peter	In Memory of Mr. Henry Saunders, Sr.
Lamb of God	Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Zimmerman
Baptism and Penance	A. M. Wallare
Faith	Mr. and Mrs. Carl Uetz
Hope	In Memory of Jacob Wagner, Sr.
Charity	In Memory of Joseph Uetz, Sr.

(The windows in the sacristy were donated by the Charley Uetz family. A mistake was made in the "U").

## DONOR

The Church needed more money with which to purchase furnishings. A mortgage dated November 19, 1913 in the amount of \$12,000.00 was made by Bishop Vincent Wehrle with the Bankers and Merchants Fire Insurance Company of Minneapolis. This mortgage was satisfied January 21, 1928 after which followed a celebration to observe the burning of the mortgage.

The Ladies' Sodality of 1913 gave the Church the Altar Rail.

It is thought that the pulpit was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Nick Weinacht. The new Church was furnished and the basement finished with a hardwood floor. The total cost of the new Church amounted to about \$28,000.00.

The first Mass that was said in the Church was on Easter Sunday in 1914. It began by a procession from the old Church led by Wm. Jandt, Jr. bearing the Cross, proceeding to the new Church where High Mass was celebrated.

The first confirmation class in the new Church was:

Robert Butterfield	Frank Kukowski
James McLaughlan	Ray Lingk
Dominic Kukowski	Ignatius Pierzina
Margaret Wallace	Ward Butterfield
Albert Gass	Margaret Bartley
Wm. Jandt, Jr.	Oswald Joep
	Margaret McCarthy

The honor of being the very first one to be confirmed in the new Church is claimed by Ray Lingk.

Altar Servers about this time were the Tobias boys, John and Pat Bartley, the McCarthy boys, and the Keohane boys.

As yet the new Church did not have a bell. J. J. Bartley, an old railroad man, went to Dickinson where he solicited for the purchase of a bell from the Knights of Columbus. The bell stood outside of the Church for awhile before it could be installed. There is an inscription on the bell which reads:

Hy Stuckstede Bell FDY. Co.,  
St. Louis, Mo., 1915

*In Honorem St. Joannis Baptistae*  
Through the generosity of the  
Knights of Columbus  
Solicited by Brother J. J. Bartley

The first parish house acquired in 1908 on Lot 7, Block 5, served as the rectory until 1920. In 1920 and a part of 1921, Mr. Hugh Egan furnished a house rent free to be used as the rectory (Lots 3 and 4, Block 10, Hunters Addition). In 1922 and 1923 a house was rented on Lot 18, Block 3, Hunters second addition. By 1924 a house was purchased from J. P. Reeve (Tr. A, 44, Block 9, Hunters second addition), price,

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\$3,500.00, which served as rectory until the present rectory was completed in 1957.

In April 1918 Father Wm. Fred Hake came to St. John's Church as Pastor. Father Wolpers was assigned to St. Joseph's Church in Dickinson. Later that year he became one of the many victims of the flu epidemic of the First World War.

Father Hake, originally from the East, readily adapted himself to his new surroundings. Under his pastorate the Church continued to grow. Father Hake labored faithfully and diligently in the Parish for thirty-two and one-half years, offering spiritual and material assistance whenever needed. As evidence of his successful and fruitful ministry here at St. John's, it is well to glance through those years of service and to mention but a few of the great many accomplishments.

The interior of the church was decorated and made beautiful. The grounds were landscaped. Frequently repairs and various improvements were made as needed with Father Hake often doing much of the work and many of the menial tasks himself. By 1920 the parish had a house which served as a rectory until 1957. It was in 1928 that Father Hake and the parishioners saw the debt lifted. This was cause for a celebration in 1929.

Because he was deeply interested in the youth of the parish, Father Hake began a system of weekly catechetical instructions as well as bringing many converts into the Church. Successful in his endeavors in the spiritual organization of the Church, he promoted Sodalties, Apostleship of Prayer in League of the Sacred Heart, and others. In ever-present contact with his parishioners he often mailed letters, pamphlets, and religious literature; urged and en-

couraged the use of the Missal by the Faithful at Holy Mass.

Under his direction and supervision the church library was established and came into use. A new Wurlitzer Electric Organ was purchased and installed.

A man of faith and vision, Father Hake clearly foresaw and warned the people of the communistic trend of evils creeping into the world of democracy to destroy freedom of worship with the American way of living.

On May 9, 1943 several guests and clergy joined St. John's parishioners to honor Father Hake in celebrating his twenty-fifth anniversary as priest of the Beach and Sentinel Butte parishes. Another such celebration was held five years later observing his thirty years of service.

Father Hake passed away at St. Joseph's Hospital, Dickinson, November 28, 1950. Funeral services were conducted for him December 4, 1950 at St. John's Church, 10:30 a.m. with Monsignor John J. Heinz of Mohall as Celebrant of the Solemn Requiem High Mass, assisted by several priests all who were graduates of Josephium College of Columbus, Ohio, where Father Hake had received his education. Members of the Priests' Choir sang the proper of the Mass and the Absolution. The Junior Choir of St. John's, founded by Father Hake, sang the Ordinary of the Mass. Sixty-four priests of the diocese were in attendance. Father Hake's remains were taken to New York where interment was made in the Holy Trinity Cemetery, Amityville, Long Island, New York to comply with the request and wish of his mother. Father Hake's unexpected passing removed from us one of the most beloved and respected spiritual leaders as well as a kindly, tolerant





active worker and supporter of any worthwhile civic enterprise, whose friendship was highly valued by all Catholics and Protestants alike.

On January 21, 1950 the Rt. Rev. Monsignor John J. Heinz became Pastor of St. John's Church in Beach where he served until his death, October 23, 1956. Monsignor Heinz earned the devotion of his Parishioners by his spiritual leadership and his tactful and deep understanding of all their problems. His relationship with others in the community was characterized by marked respect for his warm friendliness and his liberal attitude and fairness. He was especially noted for his Rural Life Catholic activities in which he held several offices throughout the years.

While Monsignor Heinz was pastor of St. John's, he promoted several projects one of which was the care and upkeep of the Catholic Cemetery. The Monsignor will also be remembered for his work with converts. St. Paul's Converts' Club was organized under his supervision and met in the form of a study club for several months.

It was in 1955 that Monsignor Heinz began plans for a new Rectory. Work had begun and the construction well under way when Monsignor was stricken with a series of heart attacks. He was enroute at the time of his last illness to a National Rural Life Conference at Sioux Fall, South Dakota, and had to be removed from the train at Dickinson and rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital where he succumbed October 23, 1956.

Most Rev. Lambert A. Hoch, Bishop of Bismarck, and many dignitaries of the diocese were present for the Requiem High Mass of Rt. Rev. John J. Heinz, on October 26, 1956 at St. John's Catholic Church,

Beach. A choir of priests of the diocese under the direction of Rev. Laurence Talty of Donnybrook sang the Mass. Pallbearers were Fourth Degree members of the local Knights of Columbus who also acted as the Guard of Honor. Interment was made in St. John's Catholic Cemetery, Beach.

In December 1957 the Most Rev. Lambert A. Hoch, Bishop of Bismarck, appointed Rev. Father Gerard Finnegan as Pastor of St. John's Church to succeed Monsignor Heinz, and at the time of this writing is the present Pastor.

Father Finnegan continued with the work of the new Rectory and on a Sunday in August of 1958, open house for the parishioners was held with the ladies of the Senior Sodality as hostesses.

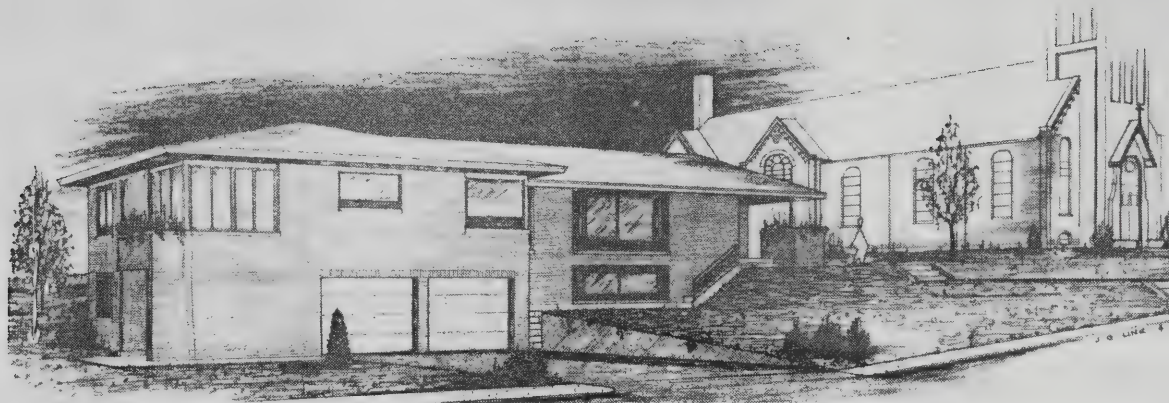
The spacious new Rectory when completely furnished will be valued over \$70,000.00. It is a combination of Rectory and rooms accessible to the needs of the Parish. It houses the priest's living quarters, guests rooms, a library, large (recreational) meeting room, housekeeper's apartment, and double garage.

During 1958 the installation of a new kitchen and equipment in the Church basement was completed. During January of 1959 the heating system in the Church broke beyond repair. It was necessary to install a new furnace. The renovation of the basement, or Hall as it is often referred to, started with a new concrete floor. Through the tireless efforts of the Ladies' Guild, the Hall was finished in time to accomodate guests for the OLD TIMER'S BANQUET (Saturday, July 26, 1959) held in connection with the City's Jubilee. Old timers of the whole area were in attendance coming from all parts of the country.









**SKETCH OF NEW RECTORY**

This brief history of the material development of St. John's Catholic Church of Beach cannot close without mention of the spiritual observance of the Golden Jubilee. This occasion was observed by all churches of the city on Sunday, July 26, 1959. At the same time the City of Beach celebrates its 50th Anniversary (on July 24, 25, and 26, 1959), St. John's Catholic Parish, together with the German Lutheran congregation of Beach observe their Church Golden Jubilees.

Our Catholic Church commemorated the occasion with a High

Mass at 10:30 a.m. with the Most Reverend Bishop Hilary B. Hacker as Celebrant and delivering the Jubilee sermon.

Through God's blessing and guidance, St. John's Church having served its parishioners for almost fifty-three years and having worked in behalf of the community in its religious and civil life, wishes to extend to the City of Beach congratulations on its Golden Jubilee. The Church will continue to work and to cooperate with every community enterprise that seeks to elevate man who was created in the image and likeness of God.

## **EARLY RECORDS**

There are no weddings or funerals on record while St. John's was a mission.

### **BAPTISMS**

From the records of St. Patrick's Church, Dickinson, North Dakota comes the first baptism on record when the Church was yet a mission:

Anna Margaret Yellowtsching, daughter of Frederick Yellowtsching and Barbara Lukan.  
Born: July 13, 1906

Baptized: August 26, 1906  
Sponsors: Henry Saunders and Mrs. Laughlan  
Witness: Mary Sartz  
Priest: Father John Dignam  
Recorded: as made by Bishop John Shanley of Fargo.

The first baptism recorded in St. John's Parish of Beach is that of:  
Marion Keohane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Keohane  
Born: August 1908  
Baptized: September 8, 1908  
Priest: Father A. J. Vanden Heuval  
Recorded: Vol. I, page 13.



## WEDDINGS

John H. Young, Beach, and Catherine L. Doyle, Terry, Montana.  
Alom Meachem and Chloe Bishop of Beach, North Dakota. Father A. J. Vanden Heuvel, priest.

## SERVERS TO 1910

(Compiled from memory of a number of parishioners of 50 years ago and are subject to error and omissions).

John W. McNeice	Frank W. Tiesen
Hubert Bares	Nick Schmit
Frank W. Tisen	J. J. Bartley

## ALTAR BOYS 1910-1912

Joe Dilley	Wm. Baht
Ben Pierzina	Erban Tiesen

## ALTAR BOYS 1912- 1914

Wm. Jandt, Jr.	Herbert Tobias
Martin McCarthy	Johnny Bartley
Neil Egan	John McCarthy
John Keohane, Jr.	Marvin Tobias
Heine Schmitz	Pat Bartley

## FIRST CHOIR MEMBERS

(About 1912)

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hurley	
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Winacht	
Mr. and Mrs. Will Schroeder	
Charley Darrington	
Nick Schmit	John Bryan
Frank W. Tiesen	Adam Ferris
Hazel Crystler	Margaret Kane

## EARLY ORGANISTS

Pearly Cranley	Jane Moran
Anna Green	Hazel Crystler
Kate Lee	Eleanor Bartley
	Catherine Schroeder

## FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

(July 4, 1909)

John Doyle, Jr.	Bill Burns
John Pierzina, Jr.	Bill Zinsli
Florence Kiedrowski	Gertrude Zinsli
Antoinette Gass	Kit McNiece
Mayme Pierzina	Mary Lingk

## SECOND GROUP OF FIRST COMMUNICANTS AND THE FIRST CLASS OF CONFIRMANTS OF 1911

James Baht	Antoninette Gass
Beulah Dilley	Frank Burns
Paul McNiece	David DeNoyer
Eleanor Bartley	Elsie Tiesen
John Ludwig	Ben Pierzina
Mayme Pierzina	Charles Lingk
Leo Tobias	William Baht
Frida Baht	Joe Dilley
Katherine Scandlan	Ruth Crystler
Blanche McNiece	Arthur Pelkey

Elizabeth Bartley	Erban Tiesen
Joseph Ludwig	John Pierzina, Jr.
Mary Lingk	Ben Buterfield
	Susan Wermerskirchen

Also included in this class were a number of others who came from another community at the last hour which disrupted Father Wolpers well-laid plans. Later the entire class filed to the Bartley residence above the store where they received a fine dinner. The J. J. Bartley family did this gracious accommodation for several of the first communion and confirmation classes as well as for the early priests and the sisters who taught the children. This is written by one who was there, and who knows he is not alone in the desire to extend a vote of thanks to the Bartley family.

## PARISHIONERS 50 YEARS AGO

Hubert Bares, J. J. Bartley, Peter Bartley, Wm. Baht, Anton Bellmont, P. T. Birmingham, Mrs. Jeff Butterfield, Mrs. John Brown, Tom Burns, Dan Cafferty, Phillip A. Cook, John Cusick, John Cunningham, George Crystler, Geo. Dilley, Mrs. Dickinson, Geo. Delaney, DeNoyer family, John Dougherty, John Doyle, T. H. Dunnigan Sr., M. C. Egan, Matt Egan, Howard Egan, Hugh Egan, Conrad Fakler, Anton Gass, Albert J. Gilman,, J. A. Haigh, John Hladick, John Holland, Wm. Holland, Mrs. Chas. Jandt, Mrs. Wm. Jandt, Sr., Albert Jarchow, Mrs. Marie Jones, John Keohane, Matt Kiedrowski, Geo. Kerrigan, Mary Kerrigan, Joseph Kramer, Wm. Kippley, Ed. Kowalewski, A. P. Kukowski, John Kukowski, Leo Kukowski, Joe Kukowski Sr., John Kusick, Martin Laughlin, Mrs. P. Lee, Frank Lehnen, Oscar Lingk, Mrs. M. J. Maher, John Michels, Michael Moran, Pat Moran, Wm. Mullen, M. C. McCarthy, Agnes McCarthy, Joan McCarthy, Nellie McGrath, Matt McNiece, John W. McNiece, Joe Musil, Wm. Odenbaugh, James Odenbaugh Sr., A. J. O'Keefe, Frank O'Rourke, Pelkey family, John Pierzina Sr., Joseph Piesek, Powers family, James Rafftrey, Mrs. A. O. Roof, Charles Ruedinger, Peter Rutz, Peter Schieffer Sr., Pete Schieffer, Mike Schieffer, Nick Schmit, A. M. Schmitz, John Schroeder, Wm. Schroeder, M. F. Smith, Anton Strack, Henry Saunders,





Frank Saunders, Joseph Szudera, Wm. Szudera Sr., Frank W. Thiesen, Theo. Tobias, Mrs. Daisy Uelman, Simon Ullencott, Peter Uetz, Nick Wienacht, A. J. Wienberger, Vincent Wicka, Anton Witzig, Fred Yopp, Egan Zinsli Sr., Peter Zook.

Frank Thomas, Edward Vukelic, Adrian Wicka.

\* Gold Star Boys

## WORLD WAR I VETERANS

(St. John's Church)

Dan Cafferty, John Egan, Bernard Fakler, Adam Farris, Ben Hess, Joe Jirschele, Albert Maher, Joseph Maher, Michael Maher, Ben Michels, Paul McNiece, Arthur Pelkey, James Powers, Mike Schwagle, Albert Tobias, Leo Tobias, Ralph Jacobs.

## SECOND WORLD WAR VETERANS

(From St. John's Parish)

\* Anthony Bellmont, Harold Bellmont, August G. Bobiney, W. L. Eckes, Albert Gilman, Robert E. Helsper, Jack Hardy, Harold Jandt, Kenneth Jandt, Eugene Jandt, Frank Kippley, Werner J. Kippley, Wm. C. Kippley Jr., Jerome P. Keohane, Lawrence F. Kukowski, J. D. Kukowski Jr., Leo Kowalewski, Donald Kowalewski, Wm. Kurkowski, Henry L. Lechler, Edward R. Lorenz, John C. Lyons, James H. Lyons, \* Roger J. Muggli, Joseph W. McCaskey, Henry L. Marmon, Donald J. Marmon, Chas. D. Marmon, Roy McCaskey, Edgar T. Muggli, William LaMeres, Louis P. Musil, Howard G. Muggli, Joe Niece, Ralph Nistler, Cyril Odenbaugh, James Odenbaugh, Arlton J. Oswood, Marian Schauer, Ernest Schauer, Raymond Schauer, Ralph Sites, Merton Still, Alexander Strzywski, Victor A. Strzywski, Ernest Schmit, Edward Strzywski, Marvin J. Thill, Clarence J. Thill, Carl Thomas,

## THE BURNING OF THE MORTGAGE

On November 1, 1929 about one hundred members of St. John's Church and guests gathered in the hall of the Church to celebrate the burning of the mortgage. A banquet was served by the Catholic Ladies' Guild.

Father Hake was the toastmaster. He told the story of the Church and the lifting of the debt. Father M. I. Lack of Golva also gave a talk. Entertainment in the form of music was furnished during the banquet.

The highlight of the event came when a cauldron, which stood in the middle of the table, was filled with the paid notes and mortgage. With due ceremony the match was applied amid tremendous cheering and joyous applause. The members and guests joined together in the singing of happy songs with verve and gusto.

Although this was a church affair, all the people of Beach joined with the parishioners of St. John's in their rejoicing of their dream come true of a fine Church now free of debt.



FIRST WORLD WAR COMPANY "M" TAKEN IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH



## VOCATIONS

To date there have been two vocations to the religious life from St. John's Parish.

Sister St. Irenaius, (Mary Bartley), eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Bartley, entered the St.



**SISTER ST. IRENIUS**

Joseph Novitiate, St. Paul, Minnesota on September 8, 1917, and took her final vows August 15, 1923. After many years as a teacher, she is retired — now at a rest home in St. Paul.

Father Linus Schieffer, OSB, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Schieffer, was ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 1922 at St. John's, Collegeville, Minnesota, and celebrated his first Mass in St. John's Church, Beach, on June 18, 1922. At present he is Pastor of the Sacred Heart Church, Freeport, Minnesota.

Father Eugene LaMeres, native son of St. Michael's Church in Sentinel Butte — at the time a mission of St. John's Church, Beach, celebrated his first Mass in St. John's Church, May 16, 1943. He is now Pastor at St. Mary's Church, New England, North Dakota.



**FATHER LINUS SCHIEFFER, OSB**



**FATHER EUGENE LAMERES**





## SKETCHES OF PASTORS

### FATHER WM. FRED HAKE

Born in Brooklyn, N. Y., January 31, 1888, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hake, William Fredrick Hake was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1914 at Josephinum Pontifical College at Columbus, Ohio, for the diocese of Bismarck. The late Bishop Wehrle assigned him to New Leipzig where he was in charge of seven Missions, traveling throughout on horseback. Later his next assignment took him to St. Joseph's



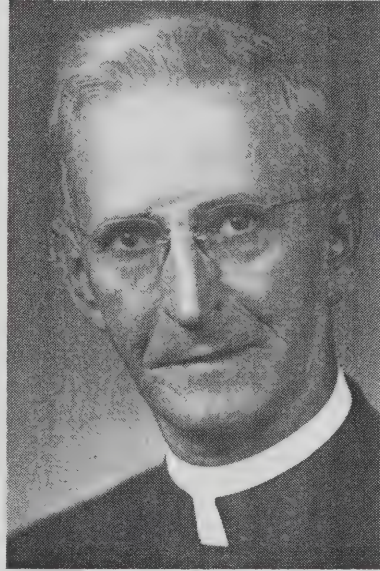
**Father Wm. Fred Hake**

Church, Dickinson after which he became Pastor of St. John's Church, Beach, in 1918, serving continuously until his death, November 28, 1950.

### RT. REV. MONSIGNOR JOHN J. HEINZ

John J. Heinz was born August 20, 1888 in Birmingham, Missouri, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mathias Heinz. He was ordained by the late Bishop Hartley at the Pontifical

College, Columbus, Ohio, on June 12, 1916 for the diocese of Bismarck. He became Pastor of St. John's



**Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Heinz**

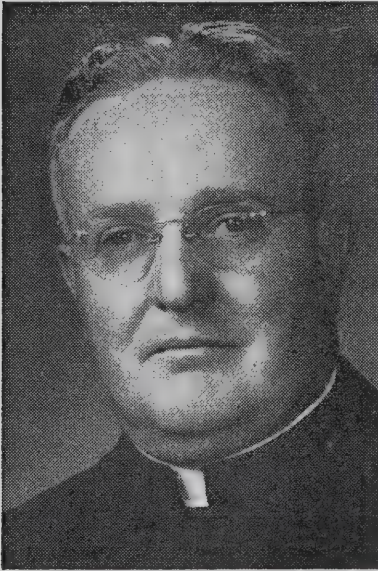
Church in Beach in 1950 and remained there until his death on October 23, 1956. Msgr. Heinz won for himself a National reputation through his Rural Life activities. He was a Rural Life director of the diocese for twenty years and held other Rural Life Offices as well. He played an important part in promoting rural life retreats in the diocese and in many parts of the U. S. He was named a Domestic Prelate on June 20, 1949 and at that time was given the title of "Monsignor." Msgr. J. Heinz was buried at the foot of the large cross at St. John's Cemetery which had been erected shortly before his death.

### FATHER GERARD J. FINNEGAN

Father Gerard J. Finnegan, a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania, was ordained to the priesthood by the



late Most Rev. Vincent J. Wehrle  
in 1936. Father Finnegan was Pastor



**Father Gerard J. Finnegan**

at Stanley, North Dakota when he was appointed by Most Rev. Lambert A. Hoch, Bishop of Bismarck, as Pastor of St. John's Church, Beach, 1956, the position which he now holds. During the World War II, Father Finnegan was chaplain in the U. S. Navy.





## — ORGANIZATIONS —

### ST. ANN'S GUILD

St. Ann's Guild is the oldest organization in the Parish of St. John the Baptist Church of Beach, and has a continuous traceable history of fifty-one years. The earliest item found to mention such a group comes from the files of the Beach Advance, May 22, 1908. The paper states that the Catholic ladies who had been meeting with the ladies of the Congregational Church in a society known as the Ladies' Aid Society were forming their own organization. Before this date the ladies of the two churches had met together as a social group to get acquainted and to foster friendly relations in the small community of Beach.

From this beginning came the Catholic Ladies' Aid, an all Catholic group whose first meeting was held May 1908 at the home of Mrs. John Keohane. As time went on the name was changed and the group was known as the Catholic Ladies' Altar Society, often referred to as St. John's Altar Society.

Then in 1929 under a new constitution it was designated as the Catholic Ladies' Guild.

The present name, St. Ann's Guild, was adopted September 27, 1951 at the suggestion of Monsignor Heinz, our pastor at that time who thought it best for the society to have a patron saint and that St. Ann would be most suitable.

The aims of this group of women have not changed as has the name. Today, as at the first meeting in 1908, the Guild strives to promote a friendly social spirit among the ladies of the parish and also raises funds for the beautification and improvements of both church and rectory.

The meetings, as prescribed at the first meeting in 1908, are held semi-monthly on the second and fourth Thursdays. The homes of the members were used as meeting places for about the first twenty-five years. As the parish grew and the attendance increased it was found necessary to hold the meetings in the hall of St. John's Church. Often in the first years a complete meal was served to the members present who each paid a quarter to swell the society's treasury. Today a simple lunch is served; bingo is played as a pastime, and to add to the Guild's fund the sum of sixty cents is charged.

In the early years of the society any Catholic lady of the parish could join the group and dues of one dollar a year were paid. Later the membership was limited to members whose dues were paid. Today it is a parish custom to include all women of St. John's Parish as members of St. Ann's Guild and no dues are collected. New parishioners are at once invited by the members to join the organization and attend the meetings.

The constitution and by-laws in effect in 1923 tell us that two Masses were celebrated the first Sunday of each month in Beach. The first Mass being offered for the members of the Ladies' Altar Society. This first Sunday was also communion Sunday for the members. Today the members receive communion in a body on the fourth Sunday of each month. Deceased members receive a spiritual bouquet from the group.

Over the years there have been some small changes always directed toward "The Greater Honor and Glory of God."

Through fifty years of existence



the Catholic Ladies have at all times kept the organization active. Many duties and projects they have willingly assumed. No item was too small to merit their attention — from furnishing towels, sheets, dishes and silverware for the parsonage to supplying candles, linen and wine for the altar. No undertaking was too great — from redecorating the Church, though several years were necessary to accumulate sufficient funds, to providing a much needed new kitchen for St. John's Hall. No work was ever too hard — from cleaning and caring for the church to painting and refinishing the rectory.

If a celebration was in order — burning the church mortgage, a jubilee or a parish wedding — over the years the Guild has prepared a banquet for the festive occasion.

Many ways have been used to finance these responsibilities; suppers, bazaars, card parties, banquets and raffles all have been tried with success.

As St. John's Parish grows older we hope that St. Ann's Guild will always be ready and willing to assist as it has in the past.

## THE SODALITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

A ladies' Sodality under Father Wolpers pastorage was started in 1913. Its members at that time were:

Ruth Laughlan	Anna Green
Rose Bannon	Frances Matter
Carrie Witzig	Jennie Witzig
Catherine Bartley	Rita Brault
Katherine Carrol	Hazel Chrystler
Aileen Mathison	Mary Bartley
Catherine McCarthy	

## History of Present Sodality

The Sodality of Our Lady is a highly privileged religious society whose purpose is to foster in its members a devotion to Our Blessed Lady that will manifest itself in PERSONAL HOLINESS and ACTIVE CATHOLICITY. It is an organized APOSTOLATE that seeks to bring its members, through imitation of Our Lady, close to Christ and to draw others to know Him, love Him, and serve Him and His Church. Holy Mother Church has granted rich indulgences to the society because the purposes are so important and because the way to achieve them is so practical.







With the approval of Pope Gregory, XIII the Primary Sodality was established at Rome, Italy in 1563, and this Roman College has headed Sodalities throughout the entire world since that time.

The local Sodality — under the title of Sodality of The Blessed Virgin Mary of the Annunciation — was granted its charted from Rome, May 5, 1936. The Director, always the parish priest, was Father Hake with Marie Keohane as organizer and leader.

Charter members were:

Mary Ethel Gilman	Lillian Thill
Rosemary Beckley	Eleanor Moran
Noreen Kowalewski	Helen Skoloski
Annabelle Michels	Hazel Dilly
Mary Helen Niece	Phyllis Szudera
Marcella Belmont	Marian Schauer
Eileen Kukowski	Mary Hardy
Margaret Hardy	Rosalie Beckley

In May 1950 the Sodality was divided into the Senior Sodality and the Teen Sodality, the latter becoming in 1957, The St. Catherine Teens.

One of the outstanding works of the Sodality is to serve funeral dinners to the family of anyone buried from the Church. The Sodality is also in charge of distributing explanatory booklets for all funeral and wedding Masses, and is in charge of the pamphlet rack, the Church bulletin board, and the Catholic subscription drive every year during Catholic Press Month.

Purposes of the four committees of the Sodality are:

- (1) Special devotion to Our Blessed Mother
- (2) The special right hand of the Priest in spreading the faith
- (3) Study Catholic truths and defend the Church against attacks
- (4) Develop socialbility among members in the spirit of Mary.

The spirituality of the Sodality can be summarized through:

1. PERSONAL HOLINESS by imitation of Our Blessed Lady and devotion to her Son.
2. ACTIVE CATHOLICITY through service to others — principally in the Parish — and service to the Church.

Sodality Motto  
*AD JESUM PER MARIAM*  
 (To Jesus Through Mary)

## THE ALTAR BOYS

Tribute and appreciation is here-with experssed to those boys and young men of the parish who throughout the years have so faithfully served the priests at the altar. Parents, too, are to be commended for their interest and help with the boys whose privilege it is and has been to assist with Mass and divine services.

## CHOIR AND ORGANISTS

The choirs of the Church are composed of volunteer members. There are two choirs: namely, the Junior and Senior Choirs — The Junior, the children of the parish; and Senior, young people and adults.

Members of the church choirs throughout the past years under the able direction of Mesdames Helen Tobias, Angelica Muggli, Margaret Walz and Jeanette Kukowski have given generously of their time, talent, and energy to perform the liturgical functions of the Church. The Parish is blessed through the years in being able to participate in the most solemn form of celebrating the liturgy.

Organists, past and present are: Mae Gilman, Marie Keohane, Helen Tobias, Angelica Muggli, Gwen Lorenz, P. J. Schillo, and Jeanette Kukowski. Young girls of the parish



are trained to assist with the organizer duties.

## CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

Children from this parish meet once a week at the Church and the Rectory in their respective groups according to ages and grades in school with volunteer women and men of the parish teaching the children catechism. The lay teachers are aided with Catholic Messengers and worksheets for all ages. Those youngsters who do not go to town school receive their papers and worksheets by mail to study at home with the help of their parents so that they may follow a similar course of catechism.

When public school is dismissed for summer vacation, all the children of the parish meet with Benedictine Sisters who come to St. John's to give them two weeks of instructions in the Catholic Religion. It is during this time that the children each year are prepared to receive First Holy Communion.

Special classes are held for the High School boys and girls both during the school year and during the two weeks of catechism when the Sisters are here.

Classes in adult instruction are also available and scheduled in accordance with the convenience of the individuals or groups.

## JOAN OF ARC

The JOAN OF ARC club was organized for the benefit of the young Catholic girls between the ages of 10 and 14. It promotes the spiritual and social functions of the girls of this age group. Joan of Arc girls receive Holy Communion in a body on the third Sunday of each month and on designated days.

## JUNIOR HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The JUNIOR HOLY NAME SOCIETY is organized for the Catholic boys of high school age under the guidance and direction of the Knights of Columbus. The boys receive Holy Communion in a body on their designated Sunday and days.

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS is a fraternal benefit society of Catholic men. The purpose of the society, as stated in its charter, are:

- (1) to provide for financial aid to its members and their beneficiaries;
- (2) to assist sick and disabled members;
- (3) to promote social and intellectual association among its members;
- (4) to promote and conduct educational, charitable, religious, social, and patriotic activities.

From a newspaper clipping of 1914 is found mention of the Knights of Columbus in Beach for the first time. On January 16, 1914, a group of eight members of St. John's Church were initiated into the Dickinson Council of the Knights of Columbus. Members at that time were:

M. C. Egan  
Dan McPree  
Howard Egan  
Matt Smith

James Rafftrey  
Matt Egan  
Phil Cook  
Hubert Schmitz

In January 1938, a group came together to form the "Wilfred Club," affiliated with the Dickinson Council. Membership May 15, 1938 indicated:

Hubert Bares  
Joe Peplinski  
Anton Lardy

Marvin Tobias  
Gerard Muggli  
Joe Kukowski





John Jordon	Robert Hardy
John Malone	Math Tescher
Charles Michels	Herman Dietz
Al Gilman	
Father Wm. Fred Hake	
(Robert Hardy, Secretary)	

The Wilfred Club was active from 1938 to 1942. It became inactive in 1942.

In April of 1950 a meeting was held to start the organization of a Council. A committee was appointed to go to Dickinson to arrange to organize a local Council. On July 21, 1950 a special meeting was called to vote on the name of the newly organized Council. It was agreed to call it "The Bishop Wehrle Council" Number 3354.

At a meeting in September 1950 the following were elected:

Grand Knight	Howard Hardy
Dep. G. K.	Anton Kreitinger
Chancellor	Jerome Morarity
Warden	Paul Wagner
Recording Secretary	W. L. Eckes
Financial Secretary	Andrew Bruski
Treasurer	Forrest Samuels
Advocate	Anton Lardy
Lecturer	C. J. Matejcek
Inside Guard	Frank Kress
Outside Guard	Geo. Wosepka
Chaplain	Fr. Wm. Hake
Trustee (3 yr)	Wendel Nistler
Trustee (2 yr.)	James Descheneau
Trustee (1 yr.)	A. J. Gilman

## MEMBERSHIP

St. John's Parish, Beach	112
St. Michael's, Sentinel Butte	25
St. Philip's, St. Philip	9
St. Mary's, Golva	53
St. Peter's, Wibaux	17
Total	216

## ST. CATHERINE TEEN'S

The ST. CATHERINE TEEN'S organized in 1957 from the Teen Sodality under a new constitution and by-laws. Its membership is composed of all high school Catholic girls. This organization serves to cultivate and promote knowledge and a greater devotion to God and His Blessed Mother; to conduct regular religious instruction classes for teen-age girls; to promote and practice the Catholic religion and social activities as a group. The organization has a designated Sunday each month and special days on which it receives Communion in a body.

## ST. PAUL'S CONVERTS CLUB

A converts' club (St. Paul's), organized under the pastorate of Msgr. Heinz, was active in this Parish for about two years. Its membership, the converts of the Church, totaled about thirty persons. Meetings were once a month in the form of a study club.



# AUTOGRAPHS





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